

Seattle

An Insider's Guide to Seattle's Music History

Music Map

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Music

www.seattle.gov/music

Music Map Bibliography

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Interviews: Ed Beeson · Norm Bobrow · William Bolcom · Frank Cox · Charles R. Cross · Paul de Barros · Dave Dederer · Paul Dorpat · Jack Endino · Steph Fairweather · Ricardo Frazier · Jeff Gilbert · John Gilbreath · Dee Goe · Janie Hendrix · Donna James · Eric Jaeger · Glenn Lorbiecki · Sir Mix-A-Lot · Jane Peck · Louie Raffloere · Larry Reid · Susan Silver · Ben Smith · Gene Stout · Kim Thayil · Jay Thomas · Jim Wilke

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Layout and design by Marie McCaffrey, Crowley and Associates

Special thank you to: Nancy Knox, Jeff Beckstrom,

Mayor's Music Advisory Committee Members

Published and produced by the Mayor's Office of Film and Music

No monies were solicited or accepted from businesses, individuals or locations for inclusion in this brochure.

For an expanded and updated version including the bibliography and photo credits, please go to:

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Capitol Hill

This bohemian neighborhood attracts students and hipsters to its clubs, shops, eateries, and the vivid street scene on Broadway and beyond. With two colleges and one university nearby, businesses stay open later than usual.

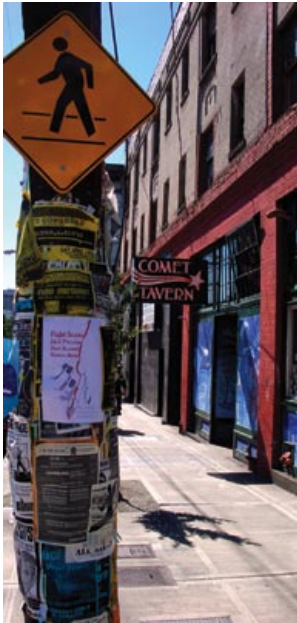


1. Dick's Drive-In: 115 Broadway E. The home of the Deluxe burger was immortalized in Sir-Mix-a-Lot's 1989 hit "Posse on Broadway," a song that defined the jovial spirit of Seattle's famous rap label, NastyMix Records.

2. 10th & E Pike St.: The close proximity of **The Comet Tavern** at 922 E Pike St., **Moe's Mo' Rockin' Café** (now Neumo's Crystal Ball Reading Room) at 925 E Pike St., the **Century Ballroom** at 915 E Pine St., and Broadway's bustling strip have made this area ground zero for a generation of nightcrawlers.

3. Cornish College of the Arts: 710 E Roy St. Piano teacher and student of the Montessori method Nellie Cornish founded this school in 1914 to create a space where students could experience the interconnectedness of all the arts. A hotbed of avant-gardism in the 1930s, its instructors included John Cage, Merce Cunningham, Martha Graham and Mark Tobey. The school survives as one of only a handful of accredited colleges of visual and performing arts in the United States. Most of Cornish relocated to the Denny Triangle area at the turn of this century, but historic Kerry Hall remains in use at this address.

4. Coryell Apartments: 1820 E Thomas St. Home to the main characters in Cameron Crowe's 1992 movie about young love and independent rock, *Singles*.

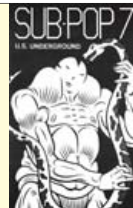


1971 – Bumbershoot Arts Festival debuts.

1975 – Tacoma's Diane Schuur debuts at the Monterey Jazz Festival.

1975–76 – Sax ace Kenny G cuts debut 45s with Seattle funk group Cold, Bold & Together.

1979 – Bruce Pavitt launches photocopied zine *Subterranean Pop* in Olympia, which lays the foundation for Sub Pop Records.



1985 – Seattle initiates controversial Teen Dance Ordinance restricting young people's access to music.

1971 – 1976 TAVERN ROCK ERA

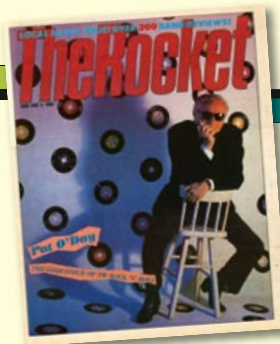
1967 – 1970 FLOWER POWER, LIGHT SHOW

1968 – Jimi Hendrix first Seattle headlining gig at Seattle Center Arena.

1970 – Jimi Hendrix plays his last Seattle show, at south-end baseball park Sick's Stadium.



1976 – Heart's *Dreamboat Annie* released, Ann and Nancy Wilson gain international fame.



1979 – *The Rocket* magazine debuts in October & covers the local music scene for two decades.

1984 – The Young Fresh Fellows's LP, *Fabulous Sounds of the Pacific Northwest*, lauded as "perfect" by *Rolling Stone*.

1976 – 1983 PUNK ERA

- Jimi Hendrix Statue: 900 E Pine St.** This privately commissioned artwork shows Seattle's legendary axeman in a typically flamboyant performance pose.
- Volunteer Park: 1247 15th Ave. E** Seattle's site of counterculture "be-ins" sponsored by local newspaper *The Helix* during the 60s.

Central District / Southeast Seattle

Racial and ethnic diversity characterize this

historic area.

Jimi Hendrix and Quincy Jones both spent formative childhood years here, and Ray Charles walked its streets as a young musician.

- The Blue Note / Local 493 Black Musicians' Union Hall: 1319 E Jefferson.** Before desegregation, the Black Musicians'

Union Hall was a performance and social club and every member had a key to get in. In 1958 the union merged with AFM Local 76.

- Viretta Park: 151 Lake Washington Blvd E.** Fans often leave flowers on a graffiti-laden bench at this unofficial public memorial near Kurt Cobain's former home.

- Garfield High School: 400 23rd Ave.** Led by the venerable Clarence Acox, the Garfield Jazz Band has established itself as one of the nation's top high school ensembles. Famous alumni from the music-friendly school, built in 1923, include Quincy Jones, Jimi Hendrix, and Ernestine Anderson. Visit by appointment only.



Viretta Park with bench detail



Jazz - Jackson Street Era

In the not too distant past, nightclubs lined Seattle's Jackson Street and surrounding area where dancing, bootleg liquor and hot jazz were spilling into the streets around the clock. Ray Charles, Quincy Jones, and Ernestine Anderson are just a few artists whose careers were launched on these blocks. Take a jazz scene walking tour. Several of these historic buildings are still standing, most are not. After your historical ramble, check out some of today's local jazz sounds at clubs like **Dimitriou's Jazz Alley** or **Tula's** - or if you're lucky enough to be in town when it's happening, immerse yourself in the world-class, fringe-friendly, **Earshot Jazz Festival**.

The Black & Tan Club: 404½ 12th Ave. S. Seattle's most esteemed and longest-lived jazz nightclub operated from 1922-1966 under various names, and was the backdrop to greats like Duke Ellington, Ray Charles, and Charlie Parker.

The Black Elks Club: 662½ S Jackson, top floor. A 17 year-old Ray Charles had his first regular gig here in 1948 with Garcia McKee.

The Rocking Chair: 1301 E Yesler Way. A raucous place memorialized by Charles' "Rocking Chair Blues."

The 908 Club: 908 12th Ave. Considered Seattle's first modern jazz temple, this was where hipsters and bohemians came to listen instead of dance.

YMCA, East Madison Branch: 1723 23rd Ave. A venue for some of the best-known names in Northwest jazz and R&B: Dave Lewis, Floyd Standifer, Oscar Holden Sr., Quincy Jones, Ray Charles, Ernestine Anderson.

When I walked home from school, I passed the pool parlor and the Mardi Gras and they always had jazz playing. My mother was saying "No!" but the music was sensuous and it said "Yes."

— pianist Patti Brown, quoted in Jackson Street After Hours, by Paul de Barros

The Washington Performance Hall: 153 14th Ave. The NAACP's "Grand Benefit Ball" was held here in 1918 - Seattle's first documented jazz performance.

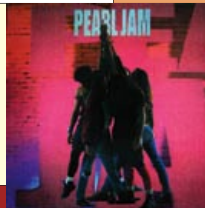
The Washington Social Club: 2302 E Madison. Artists booked by bandleader and promoter Bumps Blackwell included an underage Ernestine Anderson.

The Ubangi, the Colony Club, the Jungle Temple, the Mardi Gras, the Savoy Ballroom, and many, many more were also part of making Seattle a music mecca for this era.



1986 - Tacoma's Robert Cray finds worldwide fame with his Grammy-winning third album, *Strong Presuader*.

1990 - Future super group, Temple of the Dog record released. Pearl Jam forms from this group.



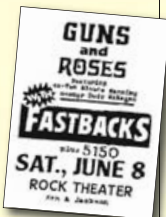
1991 - Nirvana's *Nevermind* hits #1 and breaks new grunge genre to world.



1994 - Death of Nirvana frontman, Kurt Cobain.

1989-1996 GRUNGE ERA

1985 - Local rocker, Duff McKagan joins Guns and Roses and becomes a star.



1986 - CZ Records *Deep Six* compilation showcases new hybrid "grunge" sound of punk and heavy metal.



1988 - DJ Nasty Nes hosts Seattle's first radio hip hop show, "Rap Attack," on KCMU.

The early 1990s saw top Northwest bands like Nirvana, Pearl Jam, Soundgarden, Alice in Chains, Mudhoney, & the Screaming Trees ruling all of rockdom.

1991 - Feminist wave, Riot Grrrl movement starts in Olympia, gains international attention.



1996 - Film *Hype*, exposes grunge movement, creates more hype.



NW Seattle / Ballard / Magnolia

Seattle's north and west neighborhoods, grounded in maritime and Scandinavian history, now nurture a burgeoning music scene.

10. Ballard Avenue: Though some artists and musicians have hung out in this neighborhood for years, only recently has Ballard burst into prominence as Seattle's newest "new bohemia." This street, an historic row of boutiques and nightspots, includes popular stops like the Tractor Tavern, Bop Street Records, the Sunset Tavern, and Hattie's Hat.

- 11. Daybreak Star Cultural Center in Discovery Park: 3801 W Government Way.** Every July, this headquarters for United Indians of All Tribes Foundation, located within an expansive natural park, is home to a Pow Wow that attracts hundreds of dancers in full regalia, dozens of drum groups, and up to 10,000 spectators in celebration of Native American culture.



University District / Northeast Seattle

Centered around the University of Washington, this neighborhood has maintained a daring and youthful ambience. You never know what to expect in this ever-changing, vibrant area.

- 12. KRAB Radio – Jack Straw Productions: 4261 Roosevelt Way NE.** Established in 1963, KRAB was the second non-commercial, community-supported radio station in the US and the model for community radio nationwide. KRAB went off the air in 1984, but its spirit lives on in the Jack Straw Foundation, still based at KRAB's old address. Jack Straw is the Northwest's only nonprofit multidisciplinary audio arts center, housing a recording studio, a gallery, a performance space, and a permanent exhibit on KRAB.

13. The Blue Moon and Rainbow Taverns: 712 & 722 NE 45th St. The epicenter of beatnik and hippie Seattle, these two taverns are greasy with literary and musical history. The Northwest's most notable scribes, from Theodore Roethke to Tom Robbins, hugged the bar at the Blue Moon in its glory days, while next door at the Rainbow Northwest, blues, free jazz, and jam bands found a home. Robert Cray, Soundgarden, and Wayne Horvitz are among the Northwest artists who have contributed to the Rainbow's funky ambience.

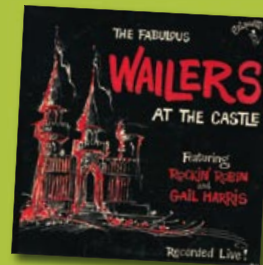


Outside of Seattle

Jimi Hendrix Official Gravesite Memorial: Greenwood Memorial Park, 350 Monroe Ave. NE, Renton, WA. This majestic domed memorial was the brainchild of the great guitarist's father, Al Hendrix, to provide fans with a proper setting in which to pay tribute. The project took years to complete. Al died in 2002, and now rests beside his son, whose remains were moved here in 2003.



Parker's Ballroom: 17001 Aurora Ave. N. This 1930s hall drew crowds throughout the big band days and during the 1960s "Louie Louie" era – when the Dynamics cut their classic live album there. The hall was recast later as the Aquarius Tavern, which played a role in launching the band Heart.



Spanish

Castle Ballroom: NW

corner of Pacific Highway S. & Des Moines Way. On this site stood the famed 1931 hall that featured big bands, country combos, and pioneering locals like The Frantics, The Sonics, and The Wailers. One fan, Jimi Hendrix, was inspired to write his "Spanish Castle Magic" in tribute.



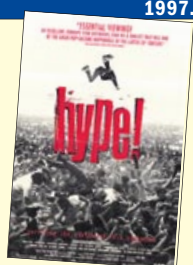
2003 Mayor Greg Nickels creates official Seattle Music Office and commissions a ground-breaking economic impact study, revealing \$1.3 billion in annual revenues and nearly 8,700 jobs generated by Seattle's growing music industry.

1997... FROM MUSIC SCENE TO MUSIC INDUSTRY

2000 – Experience Music Project music museum opens.



2001 – First Vera Project concert on January 27th at IBEW Union Hall, Local 46.



2000 – First Rockrgl Music Conference.